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EGARA Promotes Amateur Radio at Community Day

East Greenbush held its first Community Day on September 17th and EGARA used the opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local residents who attended the event. The club set up an HF station, using a multi-band GR5V antenna and an FT-891 transceiver.

Club Treasurer, Don Mayotte, KB2CDX, also ran a DMR radio, making a number of worldwide contacts, including a ham atop Mount Fuji in Japan. Meanwhile, the HF rig was used to make contacts with a number of US and Canadian hams, with several operating as part of the Parks on the Air program.

The club also made available a number of Amateur Radio informational handouts supplied by ARRL. Those stopping by also were given free EGARA pens.



Setup began at 9 am Saturday morning, with several club members showing up to help raise the antenna and set up the radios. Community Day itself ran from 11 am to 3 pm, with a number of vendors and community organizations on hand, along with a DJ who provided entertainment. Overall, several hundred town residents attended to make the event a success.

In This Issue

Page 1 - Community Day / Thank You Party
 Page 2 - Hams Prepare for Hurricane Ian
 Page 3 - Ham Radio Etiquette Tips
 Page 5 - On the Beam News & Notes
 Page 6 - Meeting Minutes / FD Gifts
 Page 7 - History of Ham Radio
 Page 10 - Hamfest Sponsors
 Page 12 - Preparing for 2023 Events
 Page 13 - ARRL Awards / Some TV History
 Page 14 - Calendar / Classifieds / Pro Tip

Pizza Party Offers Thanks to Club Volunteers

EGARA threw a pizza "Thank You" party on September 26th to acknowledge club members who helped staff this year's Hamfest and the East Greenbush Community Day.

Because of the Covid pandemic, it marked the first time in two years that the traditional get together was held to thank those who turned out to make the events successful. Once again, the dinner was held at Mercato's Restaurant and offered antipasto, pizza and beverages, with the club picking up the tab.

The club's next big social gathering will be the annual Holiday Party, which is set for December 14th.



Next Membership Meeting / Mini Hamfest - October 12, 2022 - Masonic Lodge at 7 pm

Hams Swing Into Action as Hurricane Ian Slams Florida

ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) groups and volunteers ramped up preparations as Hurricane Ian quickly intensified. On Wednesday afternoon, September 28th, Ian slammed into the west coast of Florida as an extremely dangerous Category 4 hurricane, with winds reaching over 155 mile per hour and storm surges as much as 18 feet.

The ARRL West Central Florida (WCF) Section reported that several ARES groups were activated at the request of their served agencies or in accordance with their local ARES plan. The ARRL Northern Florida (NFL) Section also swung into action, as the forecast showed the storm predicted to head up through the middle of the state to Orlando and north.



The Florida Division of Emergency Management requested the activation of amateur radio HF emergency nets, and to provide resources to staff of the various emergency agencies throughout the state. All amateur radio operators were requested to yield their use of any frequencies reserved for Hurricane Ian to allow the clear flow of traffic between agencies. As Hurricane Ian made landfall on, it began to have major impact on a large portion of the state, with the strong winds, heavy rain and storm surges occurring over an extended period of time.

Ham radio operators were instructed to follow advisories on Hurricane Ian using the main menu of the VoIP

Hurricane Net website at <https://voipwx.net>, or at the NHC website at <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov>. The Hurricane Watch Net was activated on 14.325 MHz during the day and on 7.368 MHz at night.

The ARRL also requested and received a 60-day waiver from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau of the FCC for operators who are involved in emergency storm communications to transmit at a higher baud rate than normal.

It asked for a waiver for licensed amateurs who are directly involved with Amateur Radio Emergency Services and other communication support groups working with emergency management officials. Similar waivers have been given during past major storm events and wildfires.

ARRL said trained operators are must be able to communicate with similar stations “in the United States, possibly with Caribbean-based stations that are directly involved with hurricane relief efforts, and also with federal stations on the five channels in the 5 MHz band involved with the SHARES network and other interoperability partners on those frequencies.”

The FCC stated: “The waiver is limited to amateur radio operators in the United States and its territories using publicly documented data protocols that are compatible with FCC rules, with the exception of the data rate limit waived here, for those directly involved with HF hurricane relief communications.”

Current rules normally limit the symbol or baud rate — “the rate at which the carrier waveform amplitude, frequency and/or phase is varied to transmit information” — for high-frequency amateur radioteletype/data transmissions to 300 baud for frequencies below 28 MHz (except in the 60-meter band), and 1200 bauds in the 10 meter (28–29.7 MHz) band.

Etiquette in Amateur Radio

By Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ

Whether you have a brand-new license, haven't been active in a long time, or just need a little refresher, it is understandable that getting on the air can be intimidating if you don't remember all the rules for good operating.

Repeater Etiquette

Take the time to listen to the repeaters. This is helpful in knowing if the repeater is occupied, and it provides an opportunity to learn from other operators. Speak like you were talking to someone face to face. Key the microphone and then start to talk. Don't start speaking as you key the microphone.

Repeaters have a short delay before transmitting. If you start speaking too soon, your first few words may not be heard. Make sure you have finished talking before you unkey the microphone. Give your call sign clearly and slowly. Use clear English and avoid jargon as much as possible.



Q-codes are really a Morse code shorthand. They have their place when voice communications are marginal. You should avoid falling into the habit of using cute phrases like "Roger Roger" or "QSL on that." Avoid phonetics unless you are asked to do so, like on a directed net. When using phonetics, make sure to use standard phonetics—"Alpha, Bravo, Charlie," etc.

If you are listening and would like to have a conversation, just transmit your call sign. You can add "monitoring" or "listening" if you feel it is necessary. Using the term "CQ" on a repeater is generally discouraged. When you wish to open communications on a frequency, listen for a while before talking, as there may be a conversation in progress. If you want to join a conversation already in progress, just state your call between transmissions rather than using the term "Break Break." The people conversing will acknowledge you and allow you into the conversation. If you want to talk to one particular person, say their call sign once or twice followed by your call sign.

If you have an emergency, give your call and say "Emergency" rather than using "Break Break." Saying "Emergency" will make it clear why you are interrupting and will also get more attention from those just listening. Make sure you ID (state your call sign) according to the rules but avoid over IDing.

If you are using a repeater system, the repeater has a timer so that it can ID every 10 minutes. Whenever you hear the repeater ID is a good time to send yours. There is no need to send your call sign then say "For ID." This is redundant; your call sign is your ID. It is also generally frowned upon to "kerchunk" a repeater. This means keying up your radio for just a moment so that the repeater transmits to hear the "courtesy beep" afterward. This is annoying to the repeater owners and control operators. If you want to make sure you are transmitting by the rules, give your call sign after transmitting.

(continued on page 4)

Etiquette in Amateur Radio...

From the Radio Amateur's Code (adapted from the original amateur's code written by Paul M. Segal in 1928) on the ARRL website:

The Radio Amateur is ...

- Considerate: He/She never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
- Loyal: He/She offers loyalty, encouragement, and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/her country, through which Amateur Radio in his/her country is represented nationally and internationally.
- Progressive: He/She keeps his/her station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/Her operating practice is above reproach.
- Friendly: He/She operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kind assistance, cooperation, and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.
- Balanced: Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.
- Patriotic: His/Her station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

Common Repeater Uses

Signal Reports

Any time you key up the repeater you should identify, even if you are just testing to see if you are making it in. It is sufficient to say "KE8FMJ testing." Do not use the repeater for tuning or aiming antennas, checking your transmitter power, etc. Use a dummy load where appropriate, or test on a simplex frequency. If you need someone to verify that you are making the repeater, ask for a signal report. "Can someone give me a signal report? KE8FMJ."

Roundtables and "Turning it Over"

When more than two amateurs are in a QSO, it can be referred to as a "roundtable" discussion. Such a QSO usually goes in order from amateur A to amateur B to amateur C and eventually back to amateur A again to complete the roundtable. To keep everyone on the same page, when any one amateur is done making a transmission, they "turn it over" to the next station in sequence (or out of sequence, if so desired). Without turning it over to a particular station when there are multiple stations in the QSO, nobody knows who is supposed to go next. You end up with either dead silence or several stations talking at once. At the end of a transmission, turn it over to the next station by naming them or giving their callsign. An example would be "...Go ahead Bob." or "...Go ahead N8ADO." If it has been close to 10 minutes, it's a good time to identify at the same time as well, "...KE8FMJ, go ahead Bob."

Joining a QSO in Progress

If there is a conversation taking place which you would like to join, simply state your callsign when one user unkeys. The reason for having a courtesy tone is to allow other users to break into the conversation. One of the stations in QSO, usually the station that was about to begin a transmission, will invite you to join, usually before making their own transmission. Don't interrupt a QSO unless you have something to add to the topic at hand. Interrupting a conversation is no more polite on a repeater than it is in person.

Questions? Share them with me by email at KE8FMJ@arrl.net.

Author: Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ, is Greene County, Ohio, Emergency Coordinator

On the Beam

News & Notes

VE Exam Session Set for November 5th



EGARA will hold its next Amateur Radio license exam session at the East Greenbush Masonic Lodge on Saturday, November 5th starting at 10 am. All license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- will be offered.

Test applicants are reminded that they must have an FCC Registration Number in order to take their test. Complete details on what is required and links to online resources can be found on the club's website at: <https://www.egara.club/ve-exams-sessions>.

Although reservations are not required and walk-ins are welcome, they are recommended to ensure the VE exam team has sufficient test materials and supplies.

Reservations can be made by sending an email to: W2RBJ@outlook.com. The email should include information on which test or tests the applicant wishes to take and their current call sign, if they have one.



Annual SET Exercise to Test Skills and Emergency Preparedness

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is scheduled for October 1 - 2, 2022. The SET is ARRL's annual national emergency exercise and is designed to assess the skills and preparedness of Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers, as well as those affiliated with other organizations involved in emergency and disaster responses.

"The SET provides an opportunity to evaluate equipment and skills, and to gauge the level of preparedness," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. "Additionally, it helps with interaction between other amateur radio operators and strengthens the level of training we all have."

The SET encourages maximum participation by all radio amateurs and partner organizations, as well as national, state, and local officials who typically engage in emergency or disaster responses. In addition to ARES volunteers, those active in the National Traffic System™ (NTS™), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), National Weather Service (NWS) SKYWARN®, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and a variety of other allied groups and public service-oriented radio amateurs are needed to fulfill important roles in this nationwide exercise.

This year, ARRL introduces a new program of accessible online reporting forms that allow SET participants to report activity directly to ARRL Headquarters. The new forms allow Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers to report traffic and activity. Public Information Officers and Coordinators, as well as Section Emergency Coordinators and Section Managers, can also upload press releases and pictures online.

The SET offers volunteers an opportunity to assess equipment, modes, and skills under simulated emergency conditions and scenarios. Individuals can use the time to update a go-kit for use during deployments and to ensure their home station's operational capability during an emergency or disaster. To get involved, contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager. SET guidelines and access to the forms can be found at: www.arrl.org/public-service-field-services-forms.

EGARA August Meeting Minutes

The monthly club meeting was held on August 10th and was called to order at 7:00. 17 members were present;

- President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ welcomed everyone and members introduced themselves;
- Raffle was offered and a number of prizes were won. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets;
- Members were asked to volunteer to staff the club's display at the East Greenbush Community Day;
- A review of Hamfest was discussed along with any changes that are needed for next year's event;
- It was decided to return to holding a mini-Hamfest during the club's October meeting. Other area hams will be invited to attend;
- Members who worked Field Day were given gifts from the club, including coffee mugs and totes;
- It was announced that the club will hold a \n FCC licensing exam session on November 5th;
- Members were informed that Hamfest and Field Day equipment needed to be re-organized and that a date for a work party would be emailed to everyone (see story on page 2);
- A thank you party was scheduled for September 26th for those at Hamfest and Community Day;
- Pizza and beverages were offered;
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.
- Submitted by Dave Smith, WA2WAP - Secretary

Field Day Crew Thanked for Participation

Club members who worked this year's Field Day were recognized for their efforts with free gifts. Choices included either a 2022 Field Day tote or coffee mug.

The idea was presented to the club's officers by Board member Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR and received unanimous approval. The gifts were presented at the club's September meeting. Anyone who ordered a Field Day gift but didn't make the meeting should see Steve to receive theirs.



The History of Ham Radio: April in Paris

Chris Codella, W2PA, author, John Pelham, W1JA, editor, Phil Johnson, W2SQ, editor

(Editor's note: By special arrangement with the authors, Sidebands is pleased to present this multi-part series on the history of ham radio. Subsequent chapters will be published in future monthly editions of the newsletter)

A year or so after QST first began its International Amateur Radio department, amateurs were discussing linking amateur radio organizations around the world. In a speech at the second ARRL National Convention in late 1923, Maxim said he believed it was time for an international meeting to organize something he called a "World Amateur Radio League," and asked members to submit their ideas for the ARRL board to consider. ARRL secretary and QST editor Kenneth Warner echoed the sentiment, declaring that "International Amateur Radio has arrived," and, "we need an International Amateur Radio Relay League" which ARRL would play a part in organizing.

The League had just completed a major restructuring, adopting a new constitution on 18 December 1923. After the war a new board of seventeen directors at large had been elected in a poll of the entire membership. While this had worked fine for a while, especially in getting things going again after the shutdown, it failed to provide regional representation. The organization had grown quite a bit in four years and it was time to fix this deficiency. The new constitution provided for one director from each of the ten ARRL divisions plus a general manager for Canada. These positions would be filled in an election to be held in April 1924, the ARRL's tenth anniversary year.

As international amateur radio communication took off, Maxim set sail for Europe to confer with his counterparts from other national amateur radio organizations. In Paris on 12 March 1924 the group held a dinner for him, organized and chaired by Pierre Corret, chairman of the Inter-Society Committee formed by the three French radio societies during the transatlantic tests. The dinner was also an international amateur radio meeting, the first of its kind, and included representatives from nine countries: Belgium, Canada, France, Britain, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States. Denmark, unable to send a representative, sent a letter of support.



Paris Dinner Meeting, 12 March 1924.
Maxim is seen at the table, sixth from left.

After dinner, Corret called the meeting to order and spoke in high praise of the ARRL and its president, saying the rest of the world looked to the League for leadership in organizing international amateur radio. Maxim followed with a direct call for the establishment of an international amateur radio organization. Everyone in attendance naturally agreed—that was what they had assembled for—and Maxim was asked to organize a committee to begin the process. Two days later, the Temporary Committee of Organization, a group of representatives from each of the countries present at the dinner, met to work out preliminary details. They elected Maxim president and Corret secretary, and decided to name the new entity the International Amateur Radio Union. All other countries would be invited to participate in a formal congress, to be held in the spring of 1925, at which they would consider a constitution based, in part, on recommendations solicited from the ARRL. As planned, the new ARRL directors were all elected by their respective division members in April, and took office on 1 July 1924.

Later that month the League's board endorsed the creation of the IARU as it unanimously reelected Hiram Percy Maxim and Charles Stewart as president and vice president to take the ARRL into its second decade. The board also chose to highlight the progress of amateur radio over the previous ten years by recognizing the organization's founder. With Stewart presiding, the first resolution of the new board was adopted, praising Maxim and recognizing his "devotion, sincerity and ability" as having been pivotal in the success of the League, and resolving to "tender to Mr. Maxim this unanimous expression of our confidence, love, esteem and appreciation."

(continued on page 8)

History of Ham Radio...

The first and organizing Congress of the International Amateur Radio Union was set to run from 16 to 20 April 1925 in Paris. To deal with the language problem the body would adopt a “formal international diplomatic procedure” consisting of written monographs, which would be handled by subcommittees. They, in turn, would combine their results into a draft convention to be approved by the full congress. All amateurs were invited to participate in the IARU. However, since it would be a federation of national organizations, only formal representatives of those organizations would have voting privileges.

The League itself would send two official delegates, and individual League divisions and other US organizations were also planning to send one of their members to the meeting to assist. The ARRL organized a traveling party so that the North American contingent could sail together from New York aboard the *Mauritania* on 1 April, arriving at Cherbourg six days later. They planned to return via England on the *Berengaria* from Southampton, arriving back in New York on 1 May. A travel agent handled everyone's arrangements. The estimated cost per traveler would be \$600 (equivalent to about \$8,000 in 2014) including meals, hotels and other expenses, and with four hams to a cabin for inside staterooms, second class. One could also fly from Paris to London as part of the return trip for an extra charge of \$14.



First IARU Congress, Paris, 1925

Thirteen months after Maxim proposed the idea of an international amateur radio society, the first International Amateur Congress was called to order in Paris at the *Faculté des Sciences* on 14 April 1925, coincident with the International Radio Legal Committee. The two organizations held a joint opening session in the morning, then went their separate ways that afternoon.

Amateurs from twenty-three nations attended: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Newfoundland, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, and the United States. Some French attendees had expected the IARU to include broadcast listeners and engineers, and were disappointed when they learned it was to be all about transmitting amateurs, a term increasingly used to distinguish amateurs from other kinds of radio hobbyists. The Americans were expecting the European amateurs to be mostly older and interested more in experimenting than operating.

“This was all wrong; the French amateur when we really found him, and all the rest of them, are just like ourselves, a noisy, happy bunch of keypushers of our own age, tooting whistles and discussing circuits, and talking ‘QST English,’ bless ‘em!”, wrote Warner. “And so we are happy to record that we found the hams from all around the world all alike in complete agreement as to what they wanted, and looking to Mr. Maxim to lead the way.”

In addition to Maxim and Warner, the North American delegation included Mrs. Maxim as interpreter, Jimmie Morris, 4IO and Gordon Hight, 4BQ (Southeastern Division), Lloyd Jaquet of New York City, editor of *Amateur Radio* magazine, Major Bill Borrett, c1DD, of Halifax, and L. Reid, 8AR, representing Newfoundland. After the opening joint session, subcommittees were formed to take on various organizational tasks. Each would operate democratically with one vote for each represented country. Subcommittee-1 dealt with the formation of the IARU itself. Its fifty members decided that headquarters would, at least temporarily, be located in the US, presumably since the ARRL was being used as an organizational model and would be providing its initial operational capability. QST was named the official organ of the IARU and it would debut an IARU News column in its July issue.

(continued on page 9)

History of Ham Radio...

The basic outline of a constitution was handed to the subcommittee members on 16 April. Maxim, Metzger, and Warner worked on a draft late into the evening at the Hôtel du Louvre. A large group of hams then “commandeered a flock of typewriters” and stayed up all night working to produce enough copies of the constitution in English and French for distribution to all the delegates the following morning. Warner skipped three meals in the process. The nineteen country delegates on the subcommittee reviewed and approved the draft, and later the full congress did the same. The following day the first IARU officers were elected by the delegates, “in a strictly ham meeting reeking with international good fellowship,” wrote Warner.

Although individuals could be members of IARU at the beginning, each country where there were more than twenty-five members would have its own section and president. The Board of Directors would consist of these presidents and an elected Executive Committee, very similar to the League’s board. Maxim was elected International President, Gerald Marcuse, G2NM, International Vice President. Jean Mezger, F8GO and Frank D. Bell, Z4AA of New Zealand were appointed as Councillors at Large, and Warner was named International Secretary-Treasurer. Together, these officials made up the Executive Committee—all prominent amateurs active on the air in advancing the boundaries of international communication.

Most notable was the election in absentia of Bell as a Councillor, by virtue of his well-known on-air achievements and organizational involvement at home. Once the voting was over, Warner “opened the roll for membership”—and Maxim became the first of 112 paying members. Other subcommittees dealt with on-air tests, international wavelength coordination, international language, call signs and intermediates. Some committees comprised of non-amateurs had their reports adopted but were “not binding upon the Union.” The Executive Committee would study them later.

On 18 April both congresses met and ratified all actions—and late arrivals from Russia and Indochina brought the number of participating countries to twenty-five. Amid enthusiastic applause, a bowl of flowers provided by Dr. Mertz of Switzerland was presented to Maxim, “in the name of the transmitting amateurs of the world.” The flowers were then distributed so that everyone could wear one in his lapel at the closing banquet.



Maxim pays dues as first IARU member

Knowing that Warner had skipped meals during the marathon constitution-writing session, the amateurs of Belgium and France presented him with a three-foot-long, ten-pound ham sandwich. Warner wrote that “the next night another little international ‘congress’ took it to a little sidewalk restaurant across from the hotel and there it was dispatched muy pronto, washed down with good beer, which didn’t happen to be against the law there!”

Before leaving Paris the Americans toured some local stations, including FL at the Eiffel Tower. They then stopped over in London for five days and attended a dinner hosted by the RSGB. There they met Captain Rex Durrant of GHH1, often heard on the air from Mosul, Mesopotamia. Durrant was with the Royal Air Force and had tried to fly in for the Paris congress. But he was forced to land fourteen times en route due to bad weather, and only managed to make it to Marseilles by the final day. So he decided to continue on to England directly.

(continued on page 11)

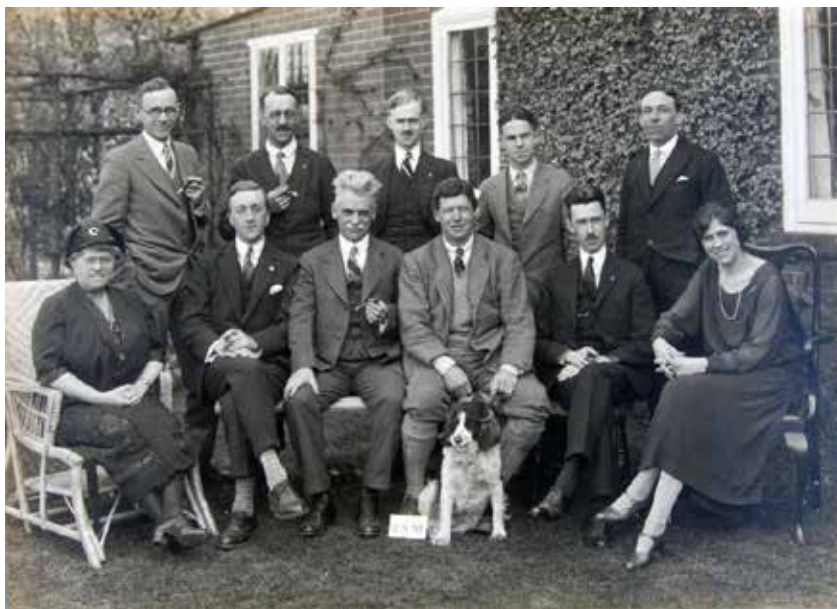
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History of Ham Radio...

By the fall of 1925, the total IARU membership stood at only 698, with 264 from the US, “disappointingly small.” The original concept of a federation of national societies had morphed into an international organization of individual members, largely because some countries did not yet have an amateur radio organization. Most were now unhappy with this arrangement and expected it to change when more membership groups formed autonomous national societies.

The next spring, the IARU announced a “New International Brass Pounder’s Club” – the WAC Club – Worked All Continents – “composed of brass pounding ether burners” who have worked at least one station in all six continents: Australia, Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America. To be admitted, amateurs must send in QSL cards as proof, which would then “be returned together with the Official WAC certificate endorsed by the Grand High Wacker himself,” declared its secretary, presumably the current holder of that title. The organizational rearrangement took about a year, and in December 1926 the IARU announced the first steps in transforming itself into a federation. Each section larger than the twenty-five-member minimum would now collect and retain its own dues for use by its section members. Smaller ones could continue to pay dues to the international headquarters in Hartford. Meanwhile, more country societies adopted a variation on the ARRL diamond as their own logo.



Post-IARU congress gathering at the home of Gerald Marcuse, G2NM, IARU VP.

Seated, L-R: Mrs Maxim, Jean Metzger F8GO, IARU Councillor at Large, HPM, Marcuse, Warner, and Mrs Marcuse.

Standing, L-R: Gordon Hight, 4BQ of Rome, GA, Major William Borrett, C1DD, of Halifax, NS, L. Reid, 8AR, of St. Johns, Nfld. James Morris, 4IO, of Atlanta, GA, Mr. Nicholls, G2CC

[Photo courtesy of Connecticut State Library, Maxim Collection]

RSGB officially became the British Section of IARU, and coincidentally the union announced that the British R system of audibility would be officially endorsed, and that GMT was to be used for all correspondence instead of local time. One ARRL director raised an issue with the use of GMT, which means Greenwich Mean Time, distinguishing it from GCT or Greenwich Civil Time. He pointed out that amateurs were actually using GCT which starts at midnight, whereas GMT begins at noon. It seemed a bit late to make an issue of this since the League and the IARU had both endorsed the use of GMT, and the use of the term seemed to be nearly universal, not just in amateur circles. Yet, Warner thought it necessary to advocate switching to GCT. The term would continue to be used in QST for a while until common convention prevailed.

As amateur radio expanded worldwide, individual IARU membership became increasingly burdensome to maintain. In the summer of 1928 a new constitution was proposed to reorganize it into a union of country organizations, each of which would maintain its own membership. The remainder of the document was unchanged except to make its language conform to the new organizational model. By a vote of section presidents it was easily adopted on 30 October 1928, more than three years after the organization’s founding. In 2014, the IARU has grown to 162 member societies around the world.

Still headquartered at ARRL in Newington, Connecticut, it is licensed to operate under its own call sign, NU1AW, from the Maxim memorial station, W1AW.

Get Ready, Get Set... Organize!

Club events are always smoother when things are in order and ready to go, and with that in mind, several club members turned out September 21st to sort through and organize supplies and equipment used for club meetings, Hamfest and Field Day. Both of the latter events involve long hours of work to set up and operate, so by the time they end the gear is often hastily put back in storage at the Masonic Lodge and in no particular order.

As part of the reorganization effort, Hamfest and Field Day gear were placed in two separate areas of the basement, with equipment and supplies sorted into totes which were then clearly marked with their contents. It also offered the chance to clean out accumulated items that were no longer needed or outdated.



Don and Walt move one of the storage cabinets back from the temporary storage location it was placed during the lodge hall's moisture remediation project



With the club's storage rack back in place, Don secures the mast used for the Field Day beam antenna

Thanks to those who took on the reorganization project, including:

Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR,
Walt Synder, N2WJR,
Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP,
Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, and
Don Mayotte, KB2CDX.

The work crew also used the opportunity to relocate the storage cabinets and equipment rack that had to be moved when the lodge building basement was renovated to deal with water and moisture issues. The revised layout also provided the benefit of making access to equipment and supplies much easier than they were before.



With everything sorted out and back in place, the crew takes a moment to admire their work

ARRL Awards Club Grants

The new ARRL Foundation Club Grant Program, funded by a generous grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), has awarded \$270,000 to radio clubs that participated in the first round of applications.

The Club Grant Program, introduced earlier this year, includes \$500,000 to be awarded to radio clubs with projects that will have the most impact on amateur radio, the community, and the future of radio technology. The grants will fund transformative projects that encourage the growth of active amateur radio operators and training opportunities, education programs for student groups and schools, and club revitalization. A second round of applications to award the program's remaining funding opened on September 7, 2022. The deadline for submitting an application is November 4th at 7PM Eastern time.

EGARA members are encouraged to propose programs as soon as possible that would be eligible for funding.

Twenty-four clubs were notified on Monday, August 29, that they are receiving grants. The ARRL Foundation received 128 applications in the first round, with requests totaling \$1.74 million. The selection committee noted that it was difficult work deciding from many high-quality grant proposals, considering the finite available funds. Radio clubs that did not receive grants in the first round may revise and resubmit applications in the second round.

The ARRL Foundation, established in 1973 by ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®, administers the Club Grant Program. ARRL has long recognized that it is in the best interest of amateur radio to encourage and support amateur radio clubs. Clubs historically have recruited, licensed, and trained new radio amateurs and have provided the community setting for them to continue their education and training.

The new Club Grant Program will help clubs more easily provide and expand their important services. More information about the program can be found on the ARRL Foundation website, at www.arrl.org/club-grant-program.

Years Later, WNYT Channel 13 Analog Antenna Finally Removed

Last used on June 12, 2009, the analog antenna used by WNYT on Channel 13 was removed this summer from atop the station's tower on Bald Mountain in Troy. EGARA Vice President Walt Snyder, N2WJR, was lucky enough to find this photo of local broadcast history on Facebook, showing a helicopter lowering the old antenna to the ground.

WNYT replaced its analog transmitter with a digital system that is now located on a master antenna in the Helderberg Mountains south of Albany -- where most Capital District TV stations now have their digital transmitters. WNYT's digital signal is actually on channel 12, but still appears on TV sets as "Channel 13" to avoid viewer confusion.

The station's old analog antenna is seen at the right as it appeared when it sat atop the Bald Mountain tower site in Troy. The site is still home to WNYT's "fill-in" digital transmitter which adds signal coverage to the local area on channel 18.



CALENDAR

October 1, 2022 - Annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

October 12, 2022 - 7 pm - Monthly club meeting - A mini Hamfest will be the meeting theme at the Masonic Lodge.

November 5, 2022 - 10 am - FCC License Exam Session, Masonic Lodge. Tests for all license classes. Reserve by email to: W2RBJ@outlook.com.

December 14, 2021 - 7 pm - Annual Christmas Holiday Party, location TBD

Pro Tip: Be Prepared for a Fall Hike

Planning on a Fall hike? Take a radio and be prepared just in case the unexpected happens:

- Pre-program your radio with local repeaters to the area and test BEFORE going out!
- Know your Simplex Frequencies and have them programmed as well. i.e 146.520.
- Some secondary frequencies are: 52.525, 223.5, 446.0 and 1294.5 MHz.
- Consider having an FRS or GMRS radio on hand and set to channel 3.
- Wilderness Protocol recommends that those stations able to do so should monitor the primary (and secondary, if possible) frequency every three hours starting at 7 AM, to 7 PM local time, for 5 minutes starting at the top of every hour.
- Have an alternate antenna that can be elevated to improve chances of making a contact and getting help.
- If you have a phone, consider re-recording your voicemail greeting with information on your location and status if you were not able to reach anyone by calling.
- If for some reason you have an HF radio, get on the bands and call CQ to get help. Someone somewhere will be able to call authorities and send them to your location to help you.



Mini-Hamfest Set for October 12th Meeting

EGARA's October meeting at the Masonic Lodge will feature a mini-Hamfest and provide an opportunity to buy, sell and swap gear.

All area hams are invited, so spread the word! The club will also provide coffee, cider and donuts to those who attend.

Admission and tables are free.

For Sale...

- MFJ-1982 mp end fed di pole 80-10 1/2 wave 300 watts \$50.00.
 - Scanner antenna, \$15.00
Contact Walt at: n2wjr07@gmail.com
 - **VIBROPLEX "Bug" semi-automatic key.** Original "PRESENTATION" Model with Gold Plated baseplate escutcheon. Beautiful heavily chromed upper parts, bright red finger pieces, jeweled bearings. Lists for \$350 but you can own this beauty for only \$250 plus postage. In absolutely beautiful condition, this dazzling example of Vibroplex engineering will be supplied in a unique hard-shell protective carrying case.
Contact Steve at: (518) 326-0902 or stevewb2hpr@gmail.com
 - **Broadcast Electronics - BE 250 - 5 Channel Broadcast Audio Console - 5 mono channels with program and audition channels, 1 mike input, 4 line inputs, plus switchable multi-inputs.** Originally used at Voice of America. With install/operation manual. \$150.
Contact Bryan at W2RBJ@outlook.com
- Got stuff to sell, swap, or looking to buy?
List it here for FREE!
Email W2RBJ@outlook.com

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.